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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re Application of:**

Fincke et al.

**Serial No.:** 09/781,931

**Filed:** February 12, 2001

**For:** THERMAL SYNTHESIS  
APPARATUS AND METHOD

**Examiner:** J. N. Stickland

**Group Art Unit:** 1754

**Attorney Docket No.:** B-026

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence along with any attachments referred to or identified as being attached or enclosed is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)) on the date of deposit shown below with sufficient postage and in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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*Mandy Landon*

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**RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.111**

Box Non Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

This is in response to the Office Action mailed September 30, 2002, wherein a restriction requirement was issued by the Office requiring Applicants to elect between claims 1-18 and 33-61 drawn to a method of converting one or more reactants to a desired end product, classified in class 423, subclass 650 (group I), and claims 20-32 and 62-87 drawn to an apparatus for thermal conversion, classified in class 422, subclass 207 (group II). Applicants hereby elect group I (claims 1-18 and 33-61) for examination without traverse.

Furthermore, pursuant to the referenced Office Action, Applicants hereby elect the following species as applicable for the examination of the elected claims without traverse.

With respect to claims 46, 47, 48, 50, 55, 56, and 57, Applicants elect "metal oxide" as the species of the metal containing compound to be examined.

With respect to claims 58, and 59, Applicants elect "natural gas" as the species of hydrocarbon to be examined.

#### CONCLUSION

Should there be any issues outstanding, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' attorney by telephone to resolve any such issues in a timely manner.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

By   
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Date: 24 Oct 2002